

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 13-16 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 8-12 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 have been amended. Claims 13-16 are newly presented. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 8 and 9 were objected to. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Morz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,982,172); claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) or Barnett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,728); claims 1, 2, and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Alton (U.S. Patent No. 6,274,858); and claims 3, 6, 7, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Alton. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 3, and 8-12 and the amendments to claims 6 and 7.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-16 are newly presented, fully supported by the originally filed specification, and believed allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject. In view of the Examiner's indication, Applicants have amended claim 4 into independent form and added new claim 13 which includes the features of cancelled claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims (claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 13-16) are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYER BROWN ROWE & MAW LLP

By: 

Yoon S. Ham
Registration No. 45,307
Direct No. (202) 263-3280

YSH/VVK

Intellectual Property Group
1909 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1101
(202) 263-3000 Telephone
(202) 263-3300 Facsimile

Date: December 14, 2005